

An amusing international episode, hitherto unpublished, in which the Kaiser was involved, occurred early in 1907, and is set forth in full in the following letter from the President to Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador in London, under date of January 10, 1907:

"There is one not very important thing of which I think you should be informed; although I do not see that either you or I can do anything about it. Apparently the members of the present British Cabinet talk with extreme freedom to Carnegie. In one instance, at least, this has been most unwise on their part, as is shown by the following incident. Mr. Carnegie recently came first to me and then to Eoot with a story that he had been told by a member of the Cabinet (whose name he gave me but which I forget) that the British Ambassador at Berlin had informed the said member of the cabinet, or else the whole cabinet, that at a recent conversation with him the Emperor had stated that he was building his navy against America, (this was to show that he was not building it against England,) and was also hostile to The Hague conference. Carnegie seemed much disturbed over the information, which naturally did not impress me in the least—in the first place, because even if the Emperor had said it I did not regard it as a fact of importance, and in the next place I could not be at all confident that the conversation coming through three or four people had by the time, it reached me any resemblance at all to what it originally was. In other words, it

was an
instance of that international gossip with
which one is
deluged if one chooses to listen to it.

"So far Carnegie had not done any
mischief; but what
must he then do, of all things in the world, but
call on Speck
and complain bitterly of the Emperor's
hostility to America
and to peace, as shown by the conversation in
question!

Speck of course cabled the news home, and I
received the
somewhat lurid cable from the Emperor in
consequence.

I answered by letter. I enclose copies of
both."